



MASSWILDLIFE

Massachusetts Division
of Fisheries & Wildlife
Hunter Education
Program Newsletter

Inside this Issue:

Waterfowl Regulation Changes	1
Delta Waterfowl Recognition Program	2
USFWS Survey Results	2
National Hunting And Fishing Month	3
Remembering Bernie	4
MassWildlife Website Re-Design	4
Calendar Of Events	4

MASSACHUSETTS HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

INSTRUCTORS' CHALLENGE

Volume XVI, Issue IV

September 2017

Waterfowl Hunters Take Note Of Changes In Migratory Game Bird Regulations

Waterfowl hunters should be aware that there are a few changes in the 2017-2018 Migratory Game Bird Regulations.

The daily bag limit for Black Duck has increased to two birds, and the daily bag limit for Northern Pintail has decreased to one bird.

Youth Waterfowl Hunt Season **Age Limit**

Change: During the Youth Waterfowl Hunt dates, only waterfowl hunters aged 12 -17 may hunt ducks, coots, mergansers and geese. During those dates, all youth hunters, regardless of age, must be accompanied by a licensed adult hunter with a valid Massachusetts waterfowl stamp. One firearm only. Adult hunter may not hunt and may carry firearm only when unloaded and cased. All other migratory game bird regulations and bag limits apply.

IMPORTANT! License and Stamp Requirements for Youth Waterfowl Hunt Season participants:

Youth Waterfowl participants aged 12-14; No license or waterfowl stamps are required.

Youth Waterfowl participants aged 15 years; A MA hunting license and Massachusetts waterfowl stamp are required.



Youth Waterfowl participants aged 16-17 years; A MA hunting license, a Massachusetts waterfowl stamp and federal waterfowl stamp are required.

As was the case last season, MassWildlife is participating in the e-stamp program and a Federal duck stamp can be obtained online at mass.gov/massfishhunt or wherever MA hunting licenses are sold. This Federal eDuck Stamp is valid for 45 days from the date of purchase but before the electronic stamp expires, a physical Federal Duck Stamp will be sent by U.S. mail. The physical Federal Duck Stamp must be signed across the face in ink and must be carried while waterfowl hunting. If a physical Duck Stamp does not arrive after a few weeks, contact Amplex, the federal duckstamp distribution office, at duckstamp@amplex.com or (800) 852-4897. Physical federal waterfowl stamps are also available at all National Wildlife Refuges and select post offices.

MASSWILDLIFE

1 Rabbit Hill Road | Westborough, MA 01581 | mass.gov/masswildlife



Instructors' Challenge

Delta Waterfowl Celebrates Hunter Recruitment

Mentor Recognition Program

Ensuring the future of waterfowl hunting is a key part of the mission of Delta Waterfowl. In an effort to bolster waterfowl hunter numbers, Delta Waterfowl is launching a Mentor Recognition Program. The new initiative — which is supported by a \$25,000 grant from Cabela's Outdoor Fund — will raise awareness about the critical need to recruit new hunters and reward people who share their love of waterfowl hunting with others.

Here's how the program works:

Anyone who mentors a new waterfowl hunter is eligible to upload a



photo and short story about your hunt at the Delta website: deltawaterfowl.org/mentor/

In recognition, Delta Waterfowl will send a certificate of appreciation, a Delta Waterfowl Mentor hat, special Delta decal and an engraved metal band to display on a call lanyard. The new hunter will get a merit certificate, Delta hat, two decals, and if successful at taking a duck or goose, they will earn a Delta Waterfowl First-Duck Pin. In addition, both the mentor and the new hunter will receive a free entry ticket for Delta's Special Waterfowlers Sweepstakes for a chance to win a Delta Waterfowl Gear Package by ALPS OutdoorZ. You do not have to be a Delta member to participate.

New 5-Year Report Shows 101.6 Million Americans Participated in Hunting, Fishing & Wildlife Activities

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of the Interior announced a new report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that shows that 101.6 million Americans—40 percent of the U.S. population 16 years old and older—participated in wildlife-related activities in 2016, such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife-watching.

The survey illustrates gains in wildlife watching and fishing, with moderate declines in the number of hunters nationally. The findings reflect a continued interest in engaging in the outdoors. These activities are drivers behind an economic powerhouse, where participants spent \$156 billion—the most in the last 25 years, adjusted for inflation.

This year's survey also gathered two new categories of data: archery and target shooting. Findings show there are more than 32 million target shooters using firearms and 12.4 million people engaged in archery, not including hunting.

"Hunters and anglers form the foundation of wildlife conservation in the United States, consistently generating more funding for habitat and wildlife management than

any other source," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan. "Industry, federal, and state fish and wildlife agency initiatives that focus on hunter and angler recruitment, retention and reactivation are crucial to sustaining these conservation dollars and ensuring the next generation of wildlife enthusiasts have the opportunity, access, and awareness to pursue these time-honored American traditions."

As a partnership effort with states and national conservation organizations, the survey has become one of the most important sources of information on fish and wildlife recreation in the United States. Federal, state, and private organizations use this detailed information to manage wildlife, market products, and look for trends. Conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the survey is based on a 22,416-household sample surveyed through computer-assisted telephone and in-person interviews.

For more information about the survey and to view the preliminary report, please visit wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/NationalSurvey/National_Survey.htm

MASSWILDLIFE

Secretary Zinke Declares October National Hunting and Fishing Month

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke declared October will officially be recognized as National Hunting and Fishing Month at the Department. Zinke championed the order to recognize the lasting and positive impact of hunters and anglers on wildlife and habitat conservation in America. This order comes on the heels of several major sportsmen actions from Interior including Wednesday's announcement of the addition of 600 acres of land in Arizona's Santa Teresa Mountains to make Wilderness Areas accessible for hunting and fishing.

"I grew up in northwest Montana surrounded by public lands and waters. Some of my best memories are hunting and fishing with my dad and granddad, and then later teaching my own kids to hunt and fish. That's something I want more families to experience, which is exactly why increasing access to public lands is so important," **said Secretary Ryan Zinke**. "Hunters and anglers are the backbone of wildlife and habitat conservation in America, and they contribute billions of dollars to conservation. From my perspective, the more sportsmen we have in the woods and waters, the better our wildlife and land will be. Formally recognizing the contributions of hunters and anglers to wildlife and habitat conservation is long overdue."

"Hunters, anglers, and target shooters are the best conservationists who contribute so much through the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts," **said Richard Childress**, second Vice President of the National Rifle Association, NASCAR driver, and honorary chair of Hunting and Fishing Day. "Last year, they contributed \$1.2 billion toward conservation and protecting our natural

resources. We need more mentors taking young people out and teaching them to hunt and fish, so I'm glad Secretary Zinke is promoting hunting and fishing at the federal level."

The declaration was signed Wednesday night at the grand opening of the Wonders of Wildlife Museum in Springfield, Missouri.

Hunters and anglers contribute billions of dollars to conservation through initiatives like the Federal Duck Stamp, which sells for \$25 and raises nearly \$40 million each year to provide critical funds to conserve and protect wetland

habitats in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Excise taxes on firearms, ammo and tackle also generate more than a billion dollars per year through the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration acts.

In September and October, the Department of

the Interior is setting its sights on the continued role that hunters and anglers play in wildlife conservation.

Earlier this month, Secretary Zinke signed a directive to support and expand hunting and fishing, enhance conservation stewardship, improve wildlife management, and increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans. The order expanded hunting, fishing and shooting on public lands and sought innovative solutions to open private land. It also focused on wildlife and habitat conservation and restoration as well as better collaboration with states, tribes and territorial governments. The move was widely praised by sportsmen and wildlife conservation organizations.



Bernie Patriacca Remembered

Calendar Of Events *Cont.*

We are sad to report the passing of **Bernie Patriacca**. He was a Basic Hunter Education Team Leader, and was instrumental in starting the instructor team at the Marshfield Rod & Gun Club five years ago. Bernie's exuberance and



spirit were contagious and he lit up the classroom whenever taught. He had a great passion for the outdoors and we are grateful he chose to pass on some of his wisdom to the students of the MHEP. Bernie died surrounded by his loving family on July 8, 2017.

Calendar Of Events

October 5--Public Habitat Site Walk, Birch Hill Wildlife Management Area, Winchendon. Join MassWildlife Habitat Biologists & Restoration Ecologists from 4:00-6:00pm on a walk through two portions of the Birch Hill WMA. Learn about habitat management activities that will be occurring in the next year which will benefit many kinds of wildlife and wildlife related recreation. Visit a barrens restoration site and a young forest site on the east and west sides of Priest Brook. This walk will focus on the practices that will occur at each site over the next year and the positive effects this will have on area wildlife. Meet in the parking area of the Winchendon Rod & Gun Club at 169 Winchendon Road, Royalston. Wear sturdy boots and be prepared for a moderately strenuous walk.

October 12--Public Habitat Site Walk, Montague Plains Wildlife Management Area, Montague Join MassWildlife Habitat Biologists & Restoration Ecologists from 4:00-6:00pm on a walk through portions of the Montague Plains WMA that have been the focus of pitch pine/scrub oak barrens restoration for the past 20 years. Visit previ-

ous timber harvest areas from 2006 and 2015, a recent harvest area, and a 30-acre reserve area. Learn about the restoration and management history of the site, the positive effects of these activities for common and uncommon local wildlife and what future activities will be occurring to provide viable habitat for a number of state-listed and dwindling species. Meet at the MassWildlife parking area off Lake Pleasant Road across from Beach Road. Wear sturdy boots and be prepared for a moderately strenuous walk.

October 15 – November 15: Quack, Quack, Junior Duck Stamp Traveling Art Exhibit, Lawrence – The top 25 pieces of JDS art created by young people will be on exhibit at the Lawrence Heritage State Park in Lawrence. The Massachusetts Junior Duck Stamp (JDS) Program. JDS is designed to stimulate awareness and personal involvement in waterfowl & wetland conservation for students in grades K-12 through a student art project. The art is judged in four age groups in a statewide competition, and the entry judged Best of Show moves on to represent Massachusetts in the national JDS competition. For more details on the Lawrence exhibit, contact Jim Beauchesne at 978-794-1665.

MassWildlife Updates Website

As part of a statewide redesign of the Mass.gov website, MassWildlife has begun taking on a new look at Mass.gov/dfw/dfw. If you are a regular user of our site, you will have already experienced the new design and are using the search feature on the home page to find information. But for others, it will look very different. While a lot of the content has been transitioned, viewers will continue to be directed to what is dubbed the "classic" site for pages that have yet to be moved. Please bear with us as the website pages continue to evolve over the next few months. In the meantime, if you are experiencing difficulty finding information that you need for your classes, please feel free to call for assistance at (508)389-7820.